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Letter dated 11 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to call your attention to the statement concerning Kashmir issued on 8 December 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement concerning Kashmir issued on 8 December 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the recent decision by the Indian authorities to declare a unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir throughout Ramadhan. The Union is likewise pleased to note Pakistan's statement that it would exercise "maximum restraint" along the line of control.

Such encouraging moves will make for a calmer atmosphere conducive to efforts to find a peaceful solution, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri population concerned.

The European Union remains convinced that, if such a peaceful solution, being the only kind conceivable, is to be achieved, a stop must be put to terrorist acts, the line of control must be strictly observed and confidence-building and security measures must be implemented, in order for dialogue between the parties concerned to resume, in keeping with the Lahore spirit.

The European Union therefore calls upon all parties to show the utmost moderation on the ground, honour their undertakings, consider fresh confidence-building measures and resolutely, acting entirely in good faith, engage in sincere, constructive dialogue.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.